

- evaporation of the aqueous phase, and

- hardening of a protective film of the said at least one film-forming compound, coating the grains.

18. A method according to Claim 17, comprising, during the above mentioned application, an exothermic reaction between some of the aqueous phase and the calcium oxide contained in the grains, formation of a thin layer of hydrated lime on the surface of the grains, and instantaneous evaporation of the remaining aqueous phase caused by an increase in temperature resulting from the said exothermic reaction, which gives rise to a rapid hardening of the said protective film.

19. A method according to Claim 17, comprising, during and/or after the said application, a heating of the product in order to evaporate the aqueous phase.

20. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the application is implemented by spraying, nebulisation or atomisation of the said solution or emulsion on the said grains.

REMARKS

The original claims have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 11-20 which eliminate the multiple dependencies present in the original PCT claims. Please examine the case on the basis of the newly submitted Claims 11-20.

Respectfully submitted,



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